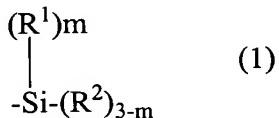


IN THE CLAIMS

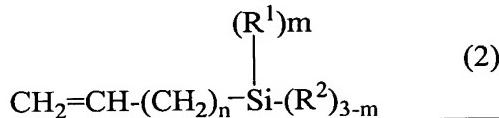
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A polyvinyl alcohol obtained by hydrolysis of a ~~polyvinyl ester comprising polymerized having~~ silyl group functionalized monomer units of formula (1):



wherein R^1 represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms; R^2 represents an alkoxy or acyloxy group; and m is an integer of from 0 to 2,

which is obtained by copolymerizing a vinyl ester monomer with a monomer having a silyl group of formula (2) to form a polyvinyl ester, and then hydrolyzing the polyvinyl ester,



wherein R^1 represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms; R^2 represents an alkoxy or acyloxy group; m indicates in integer of from 0 to 2; and n is an integer of from 0 to 4,

which wherein the polyvinyl alcohol satisfies the following formulae (I) and (II):

$$20 < P \times S < 370 \quad (\text{I})$$

wherein P is the viscosity-average degree of polymerization of the polyvinyl alcohol; and S is the content (mol%) of the silyl group functionalized monomer units of formula (1) in the polyvinyl alcohol,

$$0.1/100 \leq (A - B)/(B) \leq 50/100 \quad (\text{II})$$

wherein A is the silicon atom content of the polyvinyl alcohol in ppm; B is the silicon atom content of the polyvinyl alcohol in ppm after the polyvinyl alcohol has been first washed with a sodium hydroxide-containing methanol solution and then washed by Soxhlet

extraction with methanol; and A and B are measured by ICP emission spectrometry of an ashed sample of the polyvinyl alcohol, and

wherein an aqueous 4 % solution of the polyvinyl alcohol has a pH of from 4 to 8.

Claim 2 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1, which satisfies the following formulae (III) and (IV):

$$200 < P < 3790 \times (0.2Y - 1.40 + 2.87/Y) \quad (\text{III})$$

$$1.4 \leq Y \leq 3.0 \quad (\text{IV})$$

wherein P is the viscosity-average degree of polymerization of the polyvinyl alcohol; and Y is the 1,2-glycol bond content of the polyvinyl alcohol in mol%.

Claim 3 (Original): A coating agent that contains the polyvinyl alcohol of claim 1.

Claim 4 (Original): A coated article produced by applying the coating agent of claim 3 to a substrate.

Claim 5 (Original): An inkjet recording material produced by applying the coating agent of claim 3 to a substrate.

Claim 6 (Original): A thermal recording material produced by applying the coating agent of claim 3 to a substrate.

Claim 7 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein R² is an alkoxy or acyloxy group having an oxygen-containing substituent.

Claim 8 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein
 $40 < P \times S < 360$.

Claim 9 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein
 $80 < P \times S < 350$.

Claim 10 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein
 $0.3/100 \leq (A-B)/(B) \leq 25/100$.

Claim 11 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein
 $0.4/100 \leq (A-B)/(B) \leq 20/100$.

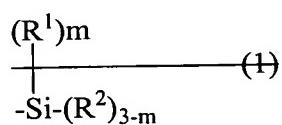
Claim 12 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1 having a degree of hydrolysis of at least 98 mol%.

Claim 13 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrolyzed silyl group functionalized monomer units are present in an amount of from 0.05 to 1.0 mol%.

Claim 14 (Original): The polyvinyl alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrolyzed silyl group functionalized monomer units are present in an amount of from 0.2 to 0.5 mol%.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for producing the polyvinyl alcohol of claim 1, which comprises:

copolymerizing a vinyl ester monomer with a vinyl trimethoxy silane monomer
having a silyl group of formula (1) to form a polyvinyl ester:



wherein R^1 represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms; R^2 represents an alkoxy or acyloxy group; and m is an integer of from 0 to 2,
and then hydrolyzing the polyvinyl ester.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled).